GRAND OFFRA HOUSE.—At 1:30 and at 8. " Humpty Dumpty Abroad." G. L. Fox. Ninlo's Garden.—At 1:30 and at 8. "The Children is the Wood." The Vokes Family. OLYMPIC THEATER .- At 2 and at 8: "Gabriel Grub." TONT PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE .- At 2 and at 8. Varieties UNION SQUARE THEATER.—"Led Astray."
WALLACK'S THEATER.—"A Man of Honor." Lester
Wallack.

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umn; CITY-Eleventh Page-1st column.
To Whom IT MAY CONCERN-Tenth Page-6th column.

KALDENBERG'S MEEESCHAUMS selling at man BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE is the best in the READ THE STATEMENT OF THE TRAVELERS,

Business of Trades Savings Bank, 275 West 3.4-st. Increased more than one-half; in point of salety, the equal of the best institutions. Seven (7) per cent, January Divisions for 1874. DIAMOND POINTED GOLD PENS.

To those sugged in mercanine provide any invastion that will facilitate their labors is highly worthy of notice as well as of extensive partners, so, One of the most important inventions of the present age is that of a pen that presents the necessary qualities of fruiters in mark and duratify in tens.

penty in use.

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Presumently such are those of John Formy manufacturer of fine Gold Pens and Penesia No. 2 Anton House. Their superior value is tesseed by the long time he has been engaged in our sity in their manufacturer.

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F. D. Taypan, President Salakian National Bank.

C. F. Turpson, Cashier Continents National Rank.

Lanc G. Ogden, Cashier New York County National Bank.

J. M. Southworth, President Hissis of American.

J. W. Lowers, Cashier Bank of N. T. S. Banking Association.

J. M. Grank, President Important and Italiant National Bank.

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J. M. Grank, Cashier Bank of N. T. S. Banking Association.

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pal stationers and lewelers.

John Folky, Gold Pen Manufacturer.

No. 2 Aster House, opposite the Herald Office.

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DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$3 per an. WELKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum. Advertising Rates.

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Nem-Dork Dailn Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1874.

TRIPLE SHEET.

The Havana journals are violent against the United States in their comments on the sinking of the Virginius The captain of the steamer Cienfuegos states that he saw Mr. Ralph Keeler at midnight on his boat, but the next morning the correspondent was missing. ----- A rupture has taken place between Senor Castelar and th Prosident of the Spanish Cortes. It is thought that Castelar will have a majority in the Cortes . The stoamer Eibe, plying between London and Hamburg, has been lost at sea ; 32 lives were lost.

The railroad engineers' strike is practically ended, the men submitting to the reduction of wages. ____ The Philadelphia by his assistant, who was arrested. A thorough reorganization of the customs service in proposed. —— The President stated yesterday that it rejected he would not appoint one of the present Su-

Ex-Senator Graham was convicted of appropriating to his own use the funds of the Wallkill National Bank The jury in the case of Maggie Jourdan, Sharkey's accomplice, disagreed. ____ A man was probably mur dered in Jersey City. ___ Gold, 1101, 1101, 1101. Thermometer, 23°, 26°, 31°

As recent events have excited a new and strong interest in this country in regard to Spanish affairs, our readers will peruse with pleasure the graphic and spirited sketches of life and travel in Spain by one of our most esteemed correspondents, the publication of which we begin this morning. They embrace a journey from the Pyrenees to Castile, with lively personal mention and conversations with the leading men of Spain.

One of the favorite schemes of the Admin istration is understood to be the Postal Savings Bank. It has been warmly indorsed by the President, and is now before Congress in the form of a bill to establish a system of banks. The summary of the plan, as given on the second page of THE TRIBUNE, shows with what deliberate purpose the Government proposes to go into the savings bank

Only genius can build a great railroad for \$1,400. But that genius was found and the

curious story, this rising of an exhalation known as the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad Company. The details, published on our second page, are commended to the consideration of those who believe that all the peculiar talent of the country is in the Congress of the United States.

Gov. Dix heard the arguments yesterday in the Britton investigation, and it now goes to him for final decision, which it is hoped and believed will be a prompt one. The counsel for the prosecution contented themselves with briefly summing up the evidence, leaving its application and the law in the case to Gov. Dix. Mr. Tracy, for the defense, indulged in many generalities, and not a few misrepresentations of facts, as the Governor will doubtless observe on examination of the testimony.

In the review for the year which appears on other pages of THE TRIBUNE, to-day, the City of New-York, its interests and its annual currents of commerce, life and death, will be found to occupy a considerable space. On our fourth page is printed a compact summary of events which have made 1873 memorable in our municipal history. The records of the doings of the charitable institutions are imperfect; but the whole exhibit is, on the whole, cheery and encouraging.

The letters from Paris which we publish today treat of French politics in various aspects. Both Republicans and Imperialists seem to have allowed themselves to be involved in the Bazaine trial to an extent which was afterward shown to be a mistake in policy. The Government party, anxious to retain its power, appears determined to gain more complete control over the municipal authorities and over the press of the country. The measures which it favors in consequence are unjust and illiberal in the extreme.

The Western railway strike is practically over. From the first, the officials of the Brotherhood of Engineers have been against it; but the strike was more difficult to handle than it would have been if it had been a matter for negotiation with a responsible head. This element, however, has helped to bring the troubles to an end. The strikers lacked organization and concert of action. They finally succumbed to the pressure of circumstances and the strike crumbled like clay. Latest dispatches from the West say that the railway managers are confident that no further trouble need be apprehended.

Our Washington dispatches say that there is imminent danger of another internecine contest in Texas. In TRIBUNE correspondence published some days since the situation in that State was fully explained, and it was shown that two State Governments were likely to claim legal existence. One set of officers claim under an old law, and another under a later law. Gov. Davis and his associates in office, it is claimed by one party, should continue in office until April 28, 1874. By another party it is held that their term of office has already expired. Under the present order of things this question is not to be decided by the local courts. Sooner or later it will come to the President, and, as in the Louisiana case, the Executive will have the making or unmaking of a State Government.

The history of every year seems more or less memorable when it is just ended, though before long it becomes part of a period, without any distinctive character of its own. It is likely that the future will think little of the years that followed immediately after the conquest of France and the establishment of the Empire of Germany, in comparison with that momentous twelve months which began with the interview of King William and M. Benedetti at Ems. Eighteen Hundred and Seventy will eclipse many years before and after it. every day in its passage, the events of 1873 are far from unimportant. It is a year, however, which does not stand alone in history. It has seen neither the beginning nor the end of any great movement of nations or of the race. It has seen the progress of former years carried steadily and wholesomely forward, but has planted no great landmark in the march of the world. If the word of d'Alembert, which ascribes happiness to those nations whose annals are dull, can be applied to periods of time, we are certainly enjoying a happier moment than three years ago. The sun rises to-day upon a better situation

and a far better political prospect in Europe than was perceptible a year ago. In Spain, the King was still holding to his shadowy power, his faithful subjects occupying their leisure by occasional shots at him, his Ministers amusing themselves and gratifying the slavers in the Cortes by saying that the rebellion was crushed in Cuba, and that no foreign power would be allowed to exert the slightest influence in the affairs of the Antilles. We have witnessed since then not only the destruction of the Savoyard dynasty in the Peninsula, but also the irreparable damage of the monarchical principle, an advantage which is certainly worth all it has cost. The Republic is in possession of the Government, and although we do not have the presumption to prophesy as to its perpetuity, we can say that our steady advocacy of it has been justified as well by its peaceful and dignified accession, as by the honest and orderly administration of affairs which has marked it from the beginning. There has been no Government in Spain for years more generally respected and obeyed, and certainly none so worthy of respect. In its management of the Virginius case the Castelar Cabinet has allown a higher degree of courage of sagacity than any monarchical and Ministry has exhibited in our time. The bravest course was the wisest after all. and we hope the Republican Government will reap still more important advantages in the future from their victory over the furious and impulsive prejudices of the Peninsulars of Cuba. But however that may be, if the magnificent experiment of popular government in Spain were even now to fail, it would not have been made in vain. Castelar and his associates have given to their countrymen a higher standard of politics than they ever knew before. We do not anticipate failure; in Spain as in France, the Republic is the form of goverument which divides the least. The untoward results which have been ac-

complished this year under the unfortunate influence of the discredited Assembly at Versailles may seem at first to indicate a check of Republican progress in that country. We think there is reason to trust that this may not be the case. It is true that the Republic has been put into the hands of those who detest it. But many a ward has grown lusty and strong in the house of a guardian who wished his death. The Government are disloyal

yet seem equal to their malice. A year ago M. Thiers was the nominal President, but he was so hampered by his environments and by his ancient compromises with his timid friends of the Right that he was incapable of setting out boldly in the path of the definite constitution of the Republic. To-day, although he sits with the minority, his influence is better and stronger than when he exercised a vacillating and disputed authority in the name of the two Centers. The masses of the people are growing more and more alive to the weight of the questions before them. At every election they testify by overwhelming majorities to their hearty Republican faith. The Government naturally strain every nerve to regain their lost supremacy at the polls, and their successive failures are the most gratifying proof of the capacity of the people to use and profit by universal suffrage. There was one moment last year when the Republic was menaced by the gravest danger which has assailed it since it came into life on the pavements of Paris in 1870. The monarchists of the Chamber had prepared a scheme of Bourbon restoration which might possibly have succeeded, had not the mind of their candidate been, let us say, divinely inspired to destroy by one utterance of arrogant folly the conspiracy arranged with so much labor and pains. It is hardly probable that another equal danger is in store for the Democracy of France. Throughout Europe the cause of reaction is making what seems

to us a losing fight. At home we have also cause for a reasonable degree of satisfaction, though there is no room for exultation. If Gen. Grant has not made that steady progress in political theory and conduct which we desired for him a year ago, he has refrained from much which he might have done which would have been worse than anything he has done. The Senate has held itself up as an awful warning to the House of Representatives and the nation, and we are not without hope that the exhibition may result in general edification. The Civil Service Reform has not accomplished what its sanguine friends anticipated, but it has promoted a good deal of innocent gayety, and has waked the pen of its former chief and champion to unwonted and gratifying activ-The Louisiana business has not itv. yet begun to smell sweet and blossom, but there is a ray of hope in - fact that Judge Durell is willing to resign for a secondclass mission. There are sporadic cases of resignation reported from quarters of such official tenacity that we cannot help hoping they may be the first drops of a refreshing shower. As partisanship has almost entirely ceased in the agricultural regions, perhaps it is losing some of its despotic power in

Washington. If we come back from the nation to the State, we are no longer left in doubt as to whether we have made a good year of it. Gen. Dix has made an excellent Governor. The people in their Autumn elections voted generally for THE TRIBUNE candidates and elected them, and we hope they will never regret it. Mr. Tweed wears motley on the Island, and the inscription on his cell informs the world that his occupation is statesmanship and that he has no religion-a standing warning against statesmanship and incentive to religion. There has been a panic and its effects were deeply felt in many quarters. But its results have shown us what a remarkable man we possess in Mr. Richardson, and the fact that the country is not ruined by him and the panic combined has restored public confidence in our indestructibility. On the whole, while we may properly work to make other years better than the last, we have rea-

son to be thankful that it was no worse. ARBITRATION AND THE CUBA QUESTION. "It is with a somewhat gloomy satisfacrecall to mind that we were never among "those who believed in the Treaty of Wash-"ington;" and then it goes on to argue that the treaty is a failure because our dispute with Spain was not submitted to arbitration. The fact is, that the only point in the Virginus case which could honorably and logically be referred to the decision of an umpire has been left for arbitration, according to the principle recognized in our recent settlement with Great Britain. The question of indemnity for the victims of the Santiago massacre, in the event of no agreement being reached through the usual diplomatic channels, is to be settled by a neutral power; and this is the on! part of our demand which could properly be settled in that manner. The other items in the account depend upon well established principles of international law or of national policy which no government/could consistently with self-respect and honor submit to a foreign judgment. There are some things which every nation must decide for itself. The American doctrine with regard to the

inviolability of vessels on the high seas has been very distinctly and emphatically faid down on many previous occasions, and has been ratified in a most significant manner by various foreign nations. We hold that an American ship on the high seas, beyond the distance of a marine league from shore, is part of the territory of the United States, and cannot be molested, or stopped, or searched by a foreign vessel in time of peace upon any pretense whatever. This principle was admitted by Great Britain in the discussion of the famous Caroline case, and it is not questioned by any respectable authority. What constitutes an American vessel must be decided of course by the American Government itself. Every nation has a right to make its own rules for the registration of merchant marine, and to decide under what conditions it will extend to a ship the protection of its flag; and it alone can determine when those rules have been obeyed and those conditions complied with. It follows, therefore, that the possession of American papers, which are equivalent to a certificate from the United States Government that the ship bearing them is entitled to the protection of the United States flag, must be accepted as conclusive by every foreign authority. If they have been obtained by false pretenses, that is an offense against our laws which concerns ourselves alone. We can no more permit a foreign power to interfere and pass upon a question of that sort than we can allow Spain, or France, or Great Britain to judge offenders against our revenue laws or our local statutes. The right of the Virginius to receive an American register is a matter with which outsiders have nothing to do. She did receive one, and if she received it wrongfully we can hold her owners to ac-

When the official correspondence between Mr. Fish, Admiral Polo, and Mr. Sickles comes \$1,400. But that genius was created, if not built. It is a to the Republic, but their power does not as to light, we presume it will be found that there mublic funds, and it is presumed that the in-

has been no serious disagreement from the first over the principles which lie at the basis of this settlement. The difficulties have doubtless been rather with the methods of reparation and the ceremonious satisfaction, such as it is, to be paid for an affront to the flag, than with the traditional American doctrine which has received in this affair such a signal ratification. The proceedings now to be set on foot against the owners of the Virginius will illustrate still more clearly our position that while we are ready to punish a fraudulent use of our flag ourselves, we will not permit a foreigner to do it for us.

CONTINGENCIES.

Congress will be amazed, when it comes to look closely into the expenditures, to find from how many unsuspected cracks the money runs away. Here are the families of Secretaries and other high officers of State riding about Washington in bretts and landaus, purchased with the "contingent fund" of the departments. Here is the engraving bureau of the Treasury Department turning out bushels of visiting cards for the ladies and gentlemen of the court. Here are perquisites and allowances to the value of \$50,003 a year going to the White House, and pickings and stealings of every kind in the inferior departments of the Government. The footman who waits on you when you dine with Mr. Secretary So-and-So, is paid by the United States as an "extra clerk." The coachman who drives the Secretary's wife when she shops or visits, draws his pay from the Department as a "laborer" or a "fireman," and the gardener's name appears perhaps on the rolls as a "messenger." The Treasury Department spends nearly a sixth of its contingent fund in carriages and horses, and pays large sums annually for "hauling" besides. Internal Revenue Department ex-The pends a larger and larger amount of money every year in collecting a smaller and smaller amount of tax, and contingent expenses account for the discrepancy. The Supervisor of Internal Revenue for this district, having his office actually in Cedar-st., New-York, is allowed to fix his headquarters constructively at Buffalo, so that the United States can be called upon to pay his hotel bills whenever he is here attending to his duty, and a similar custom prevails in many other parts of the country. Then there are clerks employed under more or less evasive pretenses, in excess of the number allowed by law. There are traveling expenses which it would hardly be unfair to call fraudulent; and there are all sorts of dodges and devices for getting money out of the Treasury after the legal allowance has been ex-

hausted. These indirect methods of drawing upon the public funds are certainly not honorable, and some of them are not honest. They are manifestations of the same spirit of petty peculation in which Congressmen have charged fancy soap, and lemons, and stay-laces to the United States as "stationery," and franked the printed circulars of their friends as "private corre-'spondence," and turned investigating committees into junketing parties, and drawn constructive mileage, and back pay, and various other perquisites to which they had no right All through the civil service the office-holders have been engaged for years in " beating" the Government out of extra pay in one shape or another, until the salaries fixed by law have come to bear but a small proportion to the salaries drawn in evasion of the law, and the contingent fund in some cases supplies the greater part of an officer's income. If Congress will go at this abuse in earnest, there will be a fine reduction in the estimates. But then the Congressmen are as bad as the Cabinet and the clerks.

THE ARKANSAS RING.

The startling feature of the Arkansas Ring developments is not the amount of money di-But to us who have seen the course of "tion," says The London Morning Post, "we vided among "thieves and murderers" deputed at various times as posse comitatus by the U. S. Marshal, nor yet the fact of the division among that class of people; the public has become reasonably familiar with that sort of thing; but when it is stated that many of the "murderers and thieves" are opponents of the Republican party the case assumes a new aspect, and one that demands and will no doubt receive immediate attention and investigation by Congress. So long as that rather undesirable and unprofitable class in an Arkansas community redeemed itself from the charge of ttotal depravity by supporting the Administration vigorously in the intervals of dullness in the business of private assassination, it was not strange, nor, we might say, unusual, for a United States Marshal, having a proper regard for the interests of an Administration which is doing so much for the reform of the Civil Service, and the payment of the National Debt, to encourage them with office and its rewards. Nor did it matter much whether they actually performed the service for which they drew pay. Society in Western Arkansas is in a somewhat rude state, and we are told there is a weak and foolish prejudice there against the practice which has obtained so extensively in that and other reconstructed States, of regulating elections and managing the State at the National Capital. Men who sustain the Administration under such circumstances deserve to be rewarded, and there is really no more simple and entirely unobjectionable process than this of appointing them deputies to serve processes and make arrests, and to take their receipt for the moneys paid them as for fees But it seems these "murderers and thieves"

are opponents of the Republican party, The case is without a parallel. A great many excellent men, some of whom are in Congress. who can understand very readily how this class of men might be deputized by the U. S. Marshal for the purpose of drawing fees for the support of the Administration, will be shocked at the revelation that they do not support the Adminstration at all. No time will be wasted in getting at the facts, and the public may rest assured that this inexcusable abuse of the confidence of the party will be stopped speedily. The method adopted by the Marshal was quite ingenious, and it is to be hoped that so effective a plan for strengthening the Administration will not be interfered with any further than to prevent its being abused by admitting anti-Administration murderers and thieves to its benefits and profits. Arkansas being a State blessed with Ku-Klux disturbances, it was an easy matter for the United States Marshal to deputize 255 residents of Fort Smith to make arrests, and quite in the natural order for these 255 to make arrests enough to come to \$23,610. The only odd thing about it was that but 48 of the deputies could be found, and of these only 25 had ever served as deputies. But the State was saved and that was worth a great deal more than \$28.610. It would be a pity to interfere with so enug an arrangement for disbursing the

vestigation will only reach the special ormity practiced in letting into the arrangement the opponents of the Administration.

BAEZ.

Our advices from Santo Domingo have given full account of the revolution against Baez, which it must have been evident, after his recent letter to Gen. Grant, could not long be deferred. We do not know that anybody will bewail his fate. He has gone into exile before now, and has managed to live there pretty comfortably on the profits of his career as a patriot, and we see no reason why he should not repeat the experiment. He has no valid title to the Presidency of the Republic. He seized it by violence; he has kept it against the will of his people, in order that he might make money out of it by illegal and dishonorable dealings with the United States; and he would have fallen long ago if he had not been propped up by a stronger power than his own. Nearly three years since Mr. Sumner exposed the character of the Baez usurpation in a speech in the Senate on the Santo Domingo resolutions, and declared that nothing sustained it except the unwarrantable intervention of the United States Navy. Mr. Sumner was roundly abused for this speech by the Administration papers of the day, and his charges were pronounced untrue. Well, what is to be said about them now?

Last Summer Mr. Baez wrote a letter to the President of the United States in which he virtually confirmed all Senator Sumner's statements. He complained that the President, after deluding him with false hopes of annex-ation and material aid, had left him to his own resources. The failure of the annexation scheme and the indisposition of the United States Covernment to follow up the Samana Bay concession with an efficient protectorate had brought on a crisis in his affairs. In plain English, he could not sustain himself unless Gen. Grant renewed his aid-seat back some ships of war, and dispatched Gen. Babcock again to Santo Domingo with another \$50,000 worth of rifles and artillery. Gen. Grant in the face of the opposition of the whole nation is powerless to interfere, and naturally Baez falls. It is not pleasant to remember that in the support of this tyrannical and disreputable adventurer the President of the United States has misused the National Navy, squandered the public money, outraged a weak and friendly people, and connived at the wicked imprisonment of an innocent American citizen suspected of wanting to tell the truth,

THE DEAD OF 'TS.

The list of those who have died in 1873 which we publish this morning will suggest many a homily to pulpit and newspaper preachers. The subtlest political schemer of the age, the most successful novelist, judges who wore the ermine unspotted in an era of unlicensed corruption and fraud, a great scholar who expounded Nature's secrets with simplicity and truth akin to her own,-bere are texts for sermons such as no living subject can offer. To us, the sermon taught resolves itself to the one fact that they left us with their work undone. The pure judge's life was cut short when purity was most needed; the ink was not dry in the magic pen when the hand that wielded it grew stiff and motionless. The curtain which Agassiz had lifted from before the darkest of Nature's secrets fell when he died, and who is left to raise it ?

"Th' unfluished window in Aladdin's tower Unfinished must remain."

Or when we look at home to find a vacant chair, it is the one we think who could least have been spared that is gone. The child, with all the hinted sweetness and strength of ats life to come in its incomplete white face: the father, full of his wise plans for his little ones; the young man, alert, alive, vigorousthese are they who in the midst of a task, a sentence unfinished on their lips, turned from us and went out of the door beyond which is darkness.

Went out, as their unfinished work teaches is, to higher work elsewhere. Nature makes no mistakes, wastes not one atom of available force. None is wasted here, though the lips of the great dead return us no answer. If there were no other proof of immortality, of the eternal unity and order of the life here and the lives hereafter, taken as a whole, we find one here and base our faith on it, not only for those strong helpers of humanity who have won a name for themselves, but for our own household dead. They have lain down in no ignoble decaying sleep; with the old wit or wisdom, or acuteness or kindly effection that we knew, and which made them dear to us, they are at work again elsewhere, on higher levels. If the dark portal should unclose on its noiseless hinges for us also to pass through in the year to come, we may be sure there is no curtain in the grave to fall upon our lives as on a finished drama. The tragedy or comedy goes on, as we have ruled it here.

To-day, for the first time in many years, there eems a reasonable prospect of clean streets and uniling skies, a combination rare to New-Yorkers on the first day of the year. The effect of this meteorological innovation remains to be seen. Perhaps it will cause the ruin and flight of scores of backmen who have relied upon the business of the day to pay their bills of the semester. Perhaps, on the other hand, it will tempt the whose population into resuming the good old Knickerbocker custom of visiting, which has languished of late years; in which case there will be enough for the hackmen to do to convey on their social pilgrimage those whom gout and rheumatism have rendered incapable of rapid marching. To our younger readers, those of good heart and sinew, we recommend a firm reliance upon shoe leather, and twenty-four hours at least of temperance.

A ridiculous news item about the action of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute on a memorial to Congress, which crept into THE TRIBUNE yesterday, makes it worth while to say with some istinctness that this Club has long since outlive its usefulness, amounts to nothing as an organiza farmers, and is practically controlled by half a dozen people, who are entitled to no respect in agricul-tural circles. It has so [completely lost its old intorest as to be entirely ignored by the respectable papers of this city devoting attention to agriculture, among all of whom there was formerly the keenest atition for the fullest and best reports of its meetings.

It his one of the special triumphs of Secretary Richardson's great plan for specie resumption by issuing silver in amounts of five dollars and less that it has been so gradual and noiseless. A year ago to-day there was scarcely any silver in circulation. Now look at us! Why only so long ago as last Saturday the Treasury Department paid out thirty dollars and ten cents in actual solid silvernone of your plated stuff, but genuine half dollars and ten cent pieces. And yet the operation of resumption has been so smooth and easy that very few people have noticed it, and we presume that not one newspaper in ten will mention it among the events of the

OBITUARY.

RALPH KEELER.

It seems improstble longer to resist the conclusion that the waters of the Gulf have closed over the young and gift d man of letters who represented THE TRIBUNK dearing the last few weeks at Santiage de Cuba. Ralph & eler had probably not an enemy in the world, and the news of his death will convey a pang of genuine sor ow wherever he was known. He was a man of swelf a unny and cheerful nature. such perfect health and a tive frame, such genial and hopeful views of life, that the thought of untimely death seems incongrues with him. He had led a life of independent and unconventional wandering, but carried through it , all an unspotted character and a youthful simplicity of manner unusual in men of his experience. He had a strong natural literary capacity, cultivated by reading and study, which already gave promise of a krilliant career. But his friends can only hope that somewhere else those bright and energetic qualities may find a more fitting opportunity of development His life was short but unstained by any vices, and filled with honest work and kindly deeds done in his own independent way.

Ralph Keeler was the son of an Ohio farmer of the

same name, and grandson of Colman J. Keeler, who was Major of a militia regiment in the war of 1812, and one of the earliest settlers in Toledo, Ohio, having built the first brick house in that city. His birthplace was a farm-house, a few miles from Toledo, in what is now the village of Weston. He was born in August, 1840. His parents died in his boyhood, and he was left in charge of guardians. He inherited some property, but it would appear that he never derived much advantage from it; he says in his "Vagabond Adventures" that it was so thoroughly adminis tered during his minority that he never after had the trouble even of collecting rents. At the age of eight he was sent to Buffalo to be

educated. Here he remained two or three years,

attending a public school, when, distiking his position in the family of the uncle with whom he lived, he made a yow that he would have nothing more to do with any of his relatives, and ran away. He lingered about the wharves until he prevailed on the steward of a steamer called the Diamond to take him on board as pantry boy. He had various amusing adventures during the two voyages that he made on this vessel; but having on the third the illluck to incur the displeasure of the captain, he was put ashore at Conneaut, Ohio. Here he was taken in charge by the steward's wife, and was living comfortably when he heard the "appalling piece of news" that his whereabouts were known, and that he would be sent for soon. He promptly stowed himself away on the Diamond, returned to Buffalo, where he "shipped" as cabin boy at " the marvelous salary of \$10 a month." Being unpaid at the end of the first month, he left, and, after a sojourn in Detroit, returned to Buffalo, where he was kindly treated by a schoolmate, and a place se-cured for him by his friend's father on the steamer North Indiana. All this happened before the lad had completed his twelfth year. His juvenile whims next led him to organize a band of minstrels, but this enterprise failed, and be became a train boy on the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, enjoying a monopoly of selling newspapers and lemonade to the passengers. Toward the middle of the Summer while he was thus engaged the cholera became so prevalent in the Western cities that he deemed it prudent to retire from this business and live quietly on his earnings. He settled himself, therefore, at a fashionable boarding-house in Toledo. His skill at dancing and his general smartness now led to his being engaged by the "Booker Troupe," also known as the "Metropolitan Serenaders," a company of strolling players then giving performances in the Western cities. This new life was full of adventure; he was the "juvenile prodigy" of the troupe, and was known to the public under the assumed name of Juba. The company, he says, wandered all over the Western country, traveling at all hours of night and day and in all manner conveyances from the best to the worst. In course of time the "Booker Troupe" was disbanded, and Ralph was "thrown out of an engagement." He traveled subsequently in two other companies, then repaired to Cincinnati and joined "The Mitchell's," another famous Western band of itinerant players, which he left to perform on the Floating Palace, a great boat built expressly for show purposes, which visited towns on the Westerm and Southern rivers. The days and nights on the Palace, he says, were eventful ones. Some unexpected thing was always happening to the boats, or to the performers or to the audiences. Among these adventures was the following, the account of which is a good specimen of his easy, humorous style narrative. We quote from his "Vagabond Adventures," an autobiographical work published in Boston in 1870 :

Shortly after, at another little town in Kentucky, a run-Shortly after, at another little town in Kentucky, a run-away couple came into the museum, bringing the 'squire with them; and right in front of the glass case, where a stuffed hyens and a hilarious alligator, also stuffed, ex-changed perpetual smiles at each other—which of course were intended by the taxidermist as looks of fercetty—

stuffed hyena and a hilarrous alligator, also stuffed, exchanged perpetual smiles at each other—which of course were intended by the taxidermist as looks of ferecity—and while a barrelorgan was playing dance for the puppets, this runaway couple were married. A brother of the lady arrived on the scene just too late to prevent the nuptials. The only means of rovenge he could think of was to get abominably drunk and raise a disturbance in the concert-room that afternoon. It must have been a memorable day with that particular family, for the young gentleman was soundly whipped for his share in the wedding ceremonies.

The row, however, became general. That was the momentous occasion when "Governor" Dorr, entering the areas by a side door, announced with some emphasis that he wanted it understood he had something to say in that fight. He was standing on a seat by the door when he commenced this speech. It was never ended, at least to his satisfaction. He had just begun his exordium as reported when some stalwart Kentuckian knocked him clear through the doer. With remarkable presence of mind the "Governor" picked up his hat as if he had merely happened to drop it on the guard of the boat, and walked quietly off to his stateroom, leaving the regular ushers to restore order.

If I have not before mentioned Dorr's presence on the Palace, it has been because I have been trying to explain in my puzzled memory how he came therer, and what was the interary gentleman of the establishment, were it not for the fact that we had another who manifestly filled that office.

I allude to the gentleman who edited the daily paper which was printed in the museum and distributed gratuitously to its patrons. This man was the founder and for a long time the editor of one of the best known among tinfluential journals now published in the Union. The wreck of a fine scholar and a graphic writer, was had been the associate of some of the highest and best of our land, it was a melancholy sight to see him industriously printing his little paper

He further says of his journey at this time:

He further says of his journey at this time:
We saw, indeed, a great deal of wild life in the country we visited, for we steamed thousands of miles on the Western and Southern rivers. We went, for instance, the entire navigable length of the Cumberland and Tennessee. Our advertising agent had a little boat of his own, in which he preceded us. The Paisce and Raymond (the ting-boat) would sometimes run their noscs upon the banks of some of these rivers, where there was not a habitation in view, and by the hour of the exhibition the boats and shore would be througed with people. In some places on the Mississippi, especially in Arkansas, men would come in with pistols sticking out of their coat pockets, or with long bowie-knives protruding from the legs of their boots.

His autobiographical book abounds in reference to lfis stage companions, some of whom are still well known to the public, while others are forgotten. Going up the Mississippi from Cairo, he says the

Floating Palace passed, one Sunday, the old French town of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and its Roman Catholic college on the river bank. The boys were out on the lawn, under the trees, and he became, he says, as envious of their lot as he ever had been before of a man who worked on a steamboat or who danced "in the minstrels." He suddenly resolved that he would go to that college. He was, however, mable to leave his troupe until after a visit to Ga' veston, where he played three weeks. Returning then to New-Orleans, he took passage for Caire, whence, owing to the river being frozen, he went to Cape Girardeau by land. This journey was so expensive that he had but \$35 left when he reached there. The good President, Father J. V. Ryan, since made Roman Catholic Bishop of Buffalo, did not turn him away, and there he spent 16 happy months, after which he went to Toledo and secured a situa-tion in the Post-Office. He had been there but a few months, when the idea of going to Europe seized nim, and he started with \$181 in his poc went from Tolodo to New-York as a cattle-drover, bought a steerage ticket to London, and reached the English capital during the World's Fair in 1802. He went thence to Paris, and almost immediately left that cuty for Heidelberg, as his capital of \$80 would